

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method of operating a gas turbine which comprises:
providing a heavy oil containing at least one of vanadium and sulfur;
reacting said heavy oil with water which is heated to 300°C to 500°C and pressured to 10 MPa to 30 MPa by utilizing the heat of exhaust gas from said gas turbine, and then bringing said heavy oil, along with said water, into contact with a scavenger for scavenging vanadium and/or sulfur in the heavy oil to thereby eliminate vanadium and/or sulfur from the heavy oil, thereby producing a reformed oil suitable for said gas turbine, wherein the vanadium concentration of said reformed oil is reduced to [[2]] 0.1 ppm or less; and
supplying said reformed oil to said gas turbine.

2. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein said water is supercritical water.

3. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein said water is subcritical water.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the scavenger comprises at least one substance selected from iron oxide, nickel oxide, metal oxide which forms composite oxide with vanadium, ceramics which absorb vanadium oxide, calcium compound, hydrocarbon, solid carbon, alumina and silica.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein said vanadium is scavenged in the form of vanadium oxide and/or a metallic compound of vanadic acid.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein said sulfur is scavenged in the form of a sulfate and/or a metal sulfide.

Claims 7-15. (Canceled).

16. (Currently amended) A method of operating a gas turbine which comprises:
providing a heavy oil containing vanadium;
reacting said heavy oil with water, which is in a state of being heated to 300°C to 500°C and pressured to 10 MPa to 30 MPa by utilizing the heat of exhaust gas from said gas turbine, and then scavenging the vanadium contained in the heavy oil in the form of vanadium oxide to thereby eliminate vanadium from the heavy oil, thereby producing a reformed oil suitable for said gas turbine, wherein the vanadium concentration of said reformed oil is reduced to 0.1 ppm or less; and
supplying said reformed oil to said gas turbine.

17. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein the scavenger is asphalt or tar.

18. (Canceled)